

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Carlton David Weaver and)
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Application: Continuation of) Docket No.: UNA4743P0291US
Application No. 10/263,823)
Filed: Herewith)

PRELIMINARY COMMUNICATION

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In Application No. 10/263,823, substantially similar claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Powell [US 6,595,379 B1] in view of May *et al.* [US 2002/015334 A1] with the following explanation:

Powell shows all of the claimed invention except for an "outer sleeve". May *et al.* shows a similar device including an "outer sleeve" 122, Figs. 14-15. It would have been obvious to provide an "outer sleeve" on Powell for protection, as taught by May *et al.*

Claim 1, as presented herein, calls for the lateral wall of the housing to have an elongate slot and recites that "the outer sleeve is connected to the locking pin via a connecting pin extending from the locking pin, through the elongate slot[.]" As May *et al.* does not disclose or suggest an elongate slot, through which a connecting pin extends, it is submitted that claim 1, as presented herein, and its dependent claims are patentable over the art of record, particularly over Powell in view of May *et al.*

Respectfully submitted,

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